(v) De-reservation of the woven segment of readymade garments from the SSI sector. In the Union Budget 2005-06, an announcement has been made for de-reservation of 30 hosiery items from the SSI;

(vi) A centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" launched for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports;

(vii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, a scheme titled "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) has also been launched;

(viii) Cotton Technology Mission launched to improve the productivity and quality of cotton;

(ix) Financial assistance is provided under the scheme namely, Handloom Export Scheme to the eligible agencies for development of exportable products, publicity and participation in international trade events.

Slump in Cotton Industry

†1686. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cotton industry of the country is reeling under constant slump;

(b) whether a steep decline has been registered in the year-wise production of silk cotton (narma) during the last 10 years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to provide relief to the cotton ginning industry in the country;

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The production and the consumption of cotton during 2002-03, 2003-04 & 2004-05 (given below) show an increasing trend. The export of cotton textiles (cotton fibre, yarn & fabric) has also shown an increasing trend during the period 2001-02 to 2003-04. Therefore it would not be appropriate to say that the cotton industry is reeling under constant slump.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(In lakh bales of 170 kg. each)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (Estimated)
Cotton Production	136.00	177.00	213.00
Cotton Consumption	168.83	173.25	193.00

SOURCE: Cotton Advisory Board

Export of Cotton Textiles in Crore Rupees

2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
31,237	37,053	38,760

Source: DGCIS, Kolkata

(b) and (c) Production of Narma (J-34) during past ten years is as under:

(Quantity in bales of 170 Kg. each.

Crop year	Punjab	Haryana	Rajasthan
1994-95	1347860	1001854	652851
1995-96	1303758	863396	848684
1996-97	1336924	855907	925321
1997-98	592846	570746	760381
1998-99	415780	440307	824216
1999-2000	607845	758039	973856
2000-01	666713	709370	715098
2001-02	859959	431847	450491
2002-03	638903	659909	304214
2003-04	918254	829703	472609

Source: Northern India Cotton Association

(d) Assistance in the form of capital incentive/interest incentive is provided for modernisation of ginning & pressing factories under Mini-Mission IV of the Technology Mission on Cotton and the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme launched by the Government of India.